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IN 41231

REF [] PARA 2 (OUT 79271)

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I MUST AGREE IN REF TO YOUR REMARKS THAT IT WOULD APPEAR THAT WE EITHER REPORTED INCORRECTLY OR ABORT WAS PREMATURE SINCE [] GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO ABORT ONLY IF CONS ARE HEAVY AND PERSISTENT. THE PILOTS BRIEFING INCLUDED YOUR INSTRUCTIONS HOWEVER THESE ARE VERY BROAD TERMS AND PROVIDE LITTLE GUIDANCE TO THE PILOT IN MAKING A DETERMINATION SINCE IT IS A MATTER OF INTERPRETATION AS TO WHAT IS HEAVY AND PERSISTENT. IN THIS INSTANCE PILOT ESTIMATED THAT CONS TRAILED A/C AS MUCH AS 300 YDS AND THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT THEY COULD BE OBSERVED FROM THE GROUND SINCE WE WERE ABLE TO SEE THEM OVERHEAD ON 30 AND 31 DEC UNDER SIMILAR CONDITIONS. CERTAINLY THERE WAS NO INTENT TO DEVIATE FRMM HQS INSTRUCTIONS OR TO ABORT A MISSION PREMATURELY. MUST ASSUME FROM YOUR COMMENTS THAT HQS IS NOT CONCERNED OVER WHETHER CONTRAILS ARE VISIBLE FROM THE GROUND PROVIDED THEY ARE LESS THAN HEAVY

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AND PERSISTENT. ON FUTURE BRIEFINGS THE POINT WILL BE EMPHASIZED THAT ABORT FOR CONS WILL BE ONLY WHEN HEAVY AND PERSISTENT. REQUEST THE PROPOSED TAC DOCTRINE BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE HQS GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT.

END OF MESSAGE

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